

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Original) A device for removing an aliquot of a biological sample from a sealed receptacle comprising said biological sample, comprising:

- a) a hollow chamber of predefined volume having inner and outer walls and top and bottom ends;
- b) a hollow piercing tip having sharp and blunt ends, wherein the blunt end is engaged to the bottom end of the hollow chamber;
- c) a filter barrier engaged to the inner walls of the hollow chamber;
- d) a side vent positioned within the hollow chamber and between the filter barrier and piercing tip; and
- e) a deflector plate separating the hollow chamber and the side vent;

wherein the deflector plate substantially prevents or blocks excess sample from entering into the side vent.

36. (Original) The device of claim 35, wherein the piercing tip is retractable within said hollow chamber.

37. (Original) The device of claim 35, wherein said biological sample is blood, plasma, spinal fluid, serum, saliva, sputum, urine, feces, Buccal cells, spermatozoa, solid tissue, bacteria, yeast, viral samples, semen, cultured cells lines, plants, or combinations thereof.

38. (Original) The device of claim 37, wherein said sealed receptacle is a sample tube.

39. (Original) The device of claim 37, wherein the pipette tip and/or the piercing tip is disposable.

40. (Original) The device of claim 37, wherein the filter barrier is a hydrophobic sterilizable filter barrier.

Claims 41-52 (Canceled)

53. (Original) A device for removing an aliquot of a sample from a sealed receptacle comprising said sample, comprising:

- a) a hollow chamber of predefined volume having inner and outer walls and top and bottom ends;
- b) a hollow piercing tip having sharp and blunt ends, wherein the blunt end is engaged to the bottom end of the hollow chamber;
- c) a filter barrier engaged to the inner walls of the hollow chamber;
- d) a side vent positioned within the hollow chamber and between the filter barrier and piercing tip; and
- e) a deflector plate separating the hollow chamber and the side vent;

wherein the deflector plate substantially prevents or blocks excess sample from entering into the side vent.

Claims 54-55 (Canceled)